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Aton, Paul Douglas, 1948-1968 (MSS 82)

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BIOGRAPHY

Paul Douglas Aton, only child of Loyd Simpson Aton and Roberta Patricia Townsend Aton (1916-1955), was born in El Paso, Texas, on October 9, 1948. After attending Franklin-Simpson High School in Franklin, Kentucky, Paul enlisted in the United States Army at Nashville, Tennessee, on October 25, 1967. Completing basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in January 1968, Paul received training also at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Arriving in Vietnam in April 1968, Paul studied Viet Cong tactics and maneuvers at the 199th Light Infantry Brigade’s Training Center REDCATCHER. Serving as radiophone operator for the Forward Artillery Observation Officer with the Headquarters and Service Battery, Second Battalion, 40th Artillery, Paul drowned under combat conditions on July 29, 1968. After a full military funeral at the gravesite on August 10, 1968, interment occurred at the Hebron Cemetery, Graves County, Kentucky.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

The Collection.
The Courier-Journal.
THE COLLECTION

The collection consists of fifteen letters received by Paul’s father, Loyd Simpson Aton, after his arrival at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in November 1967, until nine days prior to his death on July 29, 1968. The telegrams and letters, 1968 (21), detail the information the family received following Paul's death. Related materials include certificates for the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, photographs, military papers and published army regulations.

SHELF LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>ATON, Paul Douglas</th>
<th>1948-1991</th>
<th>87 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Biographical data, inventory and separation sheet</td>
<td>1968; n.d.</td>
<td>4 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Letters to father; letter to friend, May 17, 1968; and photographs (6)</td>
<td>Nov. 9, 1967-July 20, 1968; n.d.</td>
<td>15 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Letters and telegrams to Loyd Aton concerning his son’s death; two letters about Paul’s basic training and work as colonel's orderly</td>
<td>Nov. 9, 1967; Feb. 23, 1968; July 30 - Dec. 4, 1968; n.d.</td>
<td>24 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Photographs (6) and certificates</td>
<td>Jan. 12 - Sept. 19, 1968; n.d.</td>
<td>8 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Certificates and news clippings</td>
<td>1948; 1955; 1968; 1989</td>
<td>10 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Military papers - Scores, equipment requisitions, etc.</td>
<td>June 10, 1967-March 20, 1968; n.d.</td>
<td>19 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Funeral book and U.S. Army publications</td>
<td>1964-1968</td>
<td>7 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>1968; n.d.</td>
<td>4 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CATALOG CARD


Vietnam War letters written to his father, Loyd Aton, of Franklin, Ky., documenting his training at Fort Campbell, Fort Gordon, and Fort Sill and his war experiences, Nov. 9, 1967-July 20, 1968. Includes family's notification of his death and burial information.

1 box. 8 folders. 87 items. Originals.
See descriptive inventory for details.

Gift of Loyd Aton, Bardwell, KY.

K/28

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Aton, Loyd Simpson
Aton, Loyd Simpson - Photos F4
Aton, Paul Douglas, 1948-1968 - Photos F2&4
Fort Campbell, Ky., 1967
Medals, Military and naval
Military currency, 1968 F2
Military education - Basic training, 1967
Military funerals, 1968
Military supplies, 1968
Motion pictures and the war - Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975 F2
Powers, Lonnie
Simpson County - Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975 - Soldiers from
Soldiers, 1967-1968
Soldiers' bodies, Disposition of, 1968
United States - Army - Artillery
United States - Army - Handbook, manuals, etc.
United States - Army - Medals, badges, decorations, etc.
United States - Army - Pay, allowances, etc.
Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975
Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975 - Desertions
Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975 - Motion pictures and the war
War - Psychological aspects, 1968
**CHRONOLOGICAL CARDS**

1948-
1955-
1964-1968
1989-1991

**PHOTOGRAPH CARDS**

Aton, Loyd Simpson - Photos F4

**SEE ALSO CARDS**

Military Post
See Also
Names of Specific Military Posts

*Some items were added at a later date and the Descriptive Inventory reflects that, but the numbers and dates on the catalog card do not.*